

**MINUTES**  
**CHARLOTTE COUNTY MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Thursday, June 9, 2016, 9:30 a.m.**  
**Charlotte County Administration Center**  
**18500 Murdock Circle, Room 119, Port Charlotte, FL 33948**

**1. Call To Order and Pledge of Allegiance 9:30**

**2. Roll Call**

**3. Chairman's comments**

**A. REMINDER TO ALL VISITORS ADDRESSING THE COMMITTEE: PLEASE SIGN IN. It is helpful when preparing the Minutes. A clipboard and a pen are provided on the podium for your convenience.**

**B. REMINDER TO ALL MEMBERS STATE THEIR NAME AND ORGANIZATION and TO USE THE MICROPHONE WHEN ADDRESSING THE COMMITTEE. It is helpful when preparing the Minutes.**

**C. REMINDER TO ALL MEMBERS AND VISITORS TO PLEASE SILENCE THEIR CELL PHONES.**

Chairman Ireland also welcomed new member Mr. Jelliff to the group.

**4. Changes to the Agenda**

Mr. Jim Cobb has asked to have his application for membership in the MAC withdrawn due to health issues.

**5. Citizen Comments on Agenda Items**

None offered.

**6. Regular Business**

**A.** Approval of the Minutes of the Pre-Agenda Meeting from June 2, 2016 – Additions, Corrections or Deletions – none offered. Approved by acclamation.

**B.** Approval of the Minutes of the regular Meeting from May 12, 2016 – Additions, Corrections or Deletions – none offered. Approved by acclamation.

**C. MSBU Update**

Mr. Logan provided details to accompany the written report distributed earlier:

- Alligator Creek: going before the Board next week for approval of the contractor
- Buena Vista Waterways (WW): about 10% complete
- Gulf Cove WW: we are still waiting on the Army Corps permit
- Northwest Port Charlotte: they want line-of-sight brush clearing
- Harbour Heights: MCG was the approved bidder, and should be mobilizing in July
- Manchester WW: possible new project to take down the high spots
- Manasota Key North Beach Erosion: next week the contractor for the design and permitting work should be approved; a funding strategy is still in question
- Pirate Harbor: a recent meeting was held to discuss a mitigation strategy
- Stump Pass: continues following the same path.

Mr. Ludvig questioned the Alligator Creek dollar amount, Mr. Logan noted the error in the figure which should be two *million*. Commissioner Deutsch wanted to discuss the additional lock for South Gulf Cove, and asked for input. Mr. Logan gave his opinion, based on the history the subject, that it would have to be the parallel lock. Commissioner Deutsch gave his opinions against the parallel lock, expressing lack of confidence in the existing environmental concerns, which he indicated he believes are overblown; he feels the advantage of a different location overrides other concerns. Chairman Ireland said he applauds the effort, and agrees there would be benefits, but he emphasized that the pushback from state and federal authorities was at the 'don't ever present this again' level.

Commissioner Deutsch pointed to the fact that when the state previously refused to approve Stump Pass dredging, it was under a different governor, and felt that fact should inspire hope for current efforts. Chairman Ireland noted that not too many members use the facility enough to have an opinion on the siting of a second lock, but he does, and he gave his feedback based on personal experience. Mr. Buckley indicated he would appreciate it if staff would prepare a map that shows where the two proposed locations were. Further discussion ensued.

Mr. Harris asked regarding Alligator Creek whether there was a work schedule yet; Mr. Logan responded that the matter hasn't been finally approved by the Board yet, and the schedule would be forthcoming at the time of approval.

- D. Budget Update – Mr. Darden offered brief comments regarding the Financial Report handout posted on the website. He noted that there had been additional spending on FY 15/16 grant awards since the last meeting, and that he has contacted recipients regarding their spending plans. He indicated there are some roll-overs anticipated, e.g., Stump Pass, the Sheriff's Dept. overtime request for the September WaterFest, etc. Chairman Ireland asked about Mr. DeBruler's abandoned vessel removal funds, noting that Roger can't spend the money if there isn't a vessel to be removed at the moment, but that funds should be available as need arises; further discussion ensued on this point. Commissioner Deutsch raised a question regarding WCIND fund availability under a regional approach, and discussion ensued on that topic as well.

## **7. New Business**

- A. Review MAC Policy re: Boat Funding – Finance Coordinating with Legal. Chairman Ireland recapped this issue briefly; comment given today was limited to describing Mr. Darden's efforts with Legal to nail down the policy and how it should be administered. He noted that, based on these efforts, the grant issuing process might change. Commissioner Deutsch said he had contacted other counties and talked to WCIND about how it is done elsewhere – they all want to "see more skin in the game" from grant applicants; a self-funding portion of 50% was mentioned, also 25%, overall, asking for the applicant to have matching funds up front is common throughout the region.
- B. Gasparilla Slow Speed Zone: Jason Ouimet reported that this item is in legal, and an ordinance is expected within two weeks.
- C. Member-at-Large Vacancy – Applications of Mr. Andy Wing and Mr. Paul Bigness. Chairman Ireland invited applicants to approach the mic and say a few words

about themselves, and take questions. Mr. Bigness spoke first, about the waterfront as a valuable resource, noting that he has been here since he was a youngster, and had learned boating almost at once along with many practical and useful things about being on the water. Mr. Hamilton, noting that Mr. Bigness was a businessman, asked about his ability to attend all the meetings; Mr. Bigness indicated he did not feel this would be an issue.

Mr. Wing was up next, describing himself as a 'Gulf Coast kid' who had lived in the Gulf Coast states his whole lifetime. He talked about the regional nature of the estuary, and the need to work to protect the resource, indicating he was climate-change conscious. He spoke about the formation of an MSTU to handle beach renourishment and the conditions out on the Key where structures are already in danger of being demolished. Mr. Gertner asked if he was a boater, and Mr. Wing responded that he was a former boater and fisherman, for about 10 years. Chairman Ireland handed out ballots, and members prepared their votes; ballots were collected by MAC Secretary Meckenberg for counting.

## **8. Old Business**

- A. Boca Grande North Minimum Wake Zones – Jason Ouimet spoke briefly regarding the June 28<sup>th</sup> Commission Public Hearing.
- B. Mr. Hamilton spoke regarding the Manatee Protection Plan which has been voted on and will be presented to the public at workshops in Englewood and Punta Gorda, and will then go before the Commission for approval. Chairman Ireland whether it would create additional slow speed zones, Mr. Hamilton explained that it is concerned with dock placement (e.g., it will specify 5 docks per 100 feet of shoreline in some places; in other places, none.) Mr. Hamilton advised interested parties to visit the County's Manatee Advisory Committee site to get details.  
<https://www.charlottecountyfl.gov/boards-ommittees/mteeac/Pages/default.aspx>

Chairman Ireland commented regarding his recent boat trip, and suggested it is important to boaters to mention there are not additional slow speed zones.

Capt. Blago indicated he felt it was a mistake to give our local control to a state agency, especially for a creature that's about to be delisted due to having made a great recovery in numbers. Capt. Blago noted that Charlotte County doesn't have a lot of manatees; they are primarily in Lee County and migrate north, and the death counts are not high in Charlotte. Mr. Hamilton responded that, at present, there is a 'no take' on manatees at the federal level, which kills dock permitting; this Protection Plan allows dock construction to go forward. He noted that private property owners don't have to opt-in to the Plan, but if they make their permitting request under the Plan, it's an easier process. Further discussion ensued on these issues. Chairman Ireland concluded by indicating the group needs to wait until the Plan is presented, and they should be at that meeting. In discussion with Mr. Hamilton, it became apparent that it is likely to be a while. Mr. Gertner asked what was the threat of docks to manatees; Mr. Hamilton explained that the Feds don't have regulatory power over boats, but they do over docks, and permitting new docks suggests more boats on the water.

## **9. Other Business**

- A. Mr. Meckenberg announced the results of the balloting, in which Mr. Bigness was selected for the Member-at-Large seat. The group congratulated him and Mr. Wing was encouraged to resubmit his application for the next vacancy.

- B. Ms. Bareither provided members with news of a safety notice about certain types of boats (flat boats) having safety issues. Mr. Harris requested that the notice be posted on the Committee's page on the County Government website.

**10. Citizen Comments**

None offered.

**11. Good of the Order**

- A. This item was posted on the main page of the Charlotte County Government website on May 16<sup>th</sup>:  
<https://www.charlottecountyfl.gov/news/Pages/Capt-Ralph-Allen-Inducted-Into-Tourism-Hall-of-Fame.aspx>.

The recognition accorded Capt. Allen was applauded by the members.

Mr. Davidson talked about a reef fishing excursion he had recently taken, where lionfish were observed. He and his party killed these fish, but he expressed concern over the discovery. Mr. DeBruler also commented, noting that his surveys had only found two, and they were killed. He mentioned a tournament that included lionfish where 1,000 had been caught. He also noted that Lee County has a huge influx of the fish, and wondered: why there and not here?

**Next Meetings**

- The next Pre-Agenda Meeting will be held Thursday, September 1, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. in the Room B-106.
- The next Regular Meeting will be held Thursday, September 8, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 119.

Chairman Ireland reminded members that in the event of a damaging storm during the 'vacation months' they could be called to meet.

**12. Adjournment**

On motion made and unanimously accepted, the meeting was adjourned at 10:28 a.m.